

CEREBUS



92
NOV

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM

200
CANADA
170
IN US

NOTE • FROM • THE PRESIDENT

Ordinarily, I don't discuss the current issue in this space. (partly because I'm sick of thinking about it after spending two or three weeks putting it together and partly because I like for the work to stand on it's own). This issue, however, (instinct tells me) is so wide open to misinterpretation (yes, even more than usual) that I feel I should head a few of you off at the interpretive pass.

The springboard for this story-line was a dinner that I enjoyed, courtesy of Harry, at the Now & Then Books 15th Anniversary party. Also in attendance and seated directly opposite were Seth and Bill Marks of Toronto's Vortex Comics artist and publisher of Mister X respectively. There was this Leo Gorcery voice (Bugs Bunny to the age-impaired among you) that Ger and Bill and I fell into when discussing Bill's attitude towards creative people (like Los Bros. Hernandez whom he still owes considerable sums of money to for **their** work on Mr. X).

"Say....I know! I'll git an ottist. Dat's it. Yeah. An ottist. I'll let **him** have all de fame an' I'll take all de money. Dat should woik. Ottist's is so stupid."

Having rattled your cages repeatedly on the subject of criminal exploitation of creative people by business people you might find it odd that I think there is anything funny about this. But the difference is what I find funny. Bill Marks makes no pretense of being a den mother (a la Diana Schultz, Cat Yronwode) or father-figure (a la Richard Pini). He is a hustler. But he is honest about it. Shameless, but very very funny.

For Seth's part, the problem is just a scaled-down version of working for Marvel or DC. There is the same rationale one has to use working for "the Big Two"; "I've been offered a known character with a built-in following and a guaranteed page rate. Do I take that or go out and do something that I will own when it's printed? I think I'll draw Mucasman for six months until I've got a following and **then** do an independent book". This is the safe way to go. But it certainly keeps bread on the tables of dictatorial and/or repressive business executives.

One can hardly fault Seth, however. If your page rates cover your expenses with a little left over and all you really **want** to do is draw **anyway** and it **takes** just about **every** waking hour to produce the pencils for an issue of Mucasman what **else** could you possibly want? Or more to the point, what's **wrong** with it?

Grudgingly, I admit that so long as Seth is happy (or Walt Simonson or Steve Englehart or whoever), Bill Marks isn't doing anything wrong, and I'm just a lunatic outside agitator.

I don't recall hearing Seth say more than five words so I had to improvise his voice.

I decided to use Diana Schultz's.

Cerebus World Conquest

TOUR '87

We are planning a World Tour for late 1987.

Countries where we have all our appearances confirmed are Canada, the United States, England, France and Germany.

Any major shops in other countries are invited to join by writing to us.

No cost to you. (neat huh?)

CEREBUS

NO. 92 NOVEMBER 1986

DAVE SIM
President

KAREN MCKIEL
Administrator

GERHARD
Backgrounds, cover,
colour, and tones,

Circulation
31,000

CHURCH AND STATE
a novel

•
BOOK ONE
(Cerebus 52 to
Cerebus 56)
Après State

•
BOOK TWO
(Cerebus 57 to
Cerebus 63)
Back to Test

•
BOOK THREE
(Cerebus 64 to
Cerebus 80)
Church and State

•
BOOK FOUR
(Cerebus 81 to
Cerebus 89)
The Sacred Wars

•
BOOK FIVE
Astoria

•
BOOK SIX
The Final Ascension

•
BOOK SEVEN
Denouement
and
Epilogue

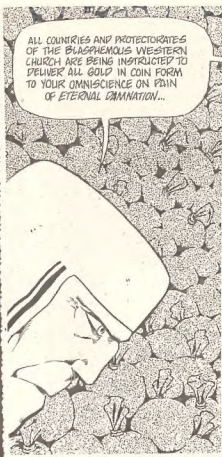
CEREBUS IS PUBLISHED
MONTHLY BY AARDVARK-
VANAHFIM INC. PO BOX
1674 STN. C KITCHENER
ONTARIO CANADA N2G 4R2
ALL CONTENTS ©1986 DAVE
SIM. PRINTED IN CANADA
BY PRENEY PRINT & LITHO
INC., WINDSOR, ONTARIO



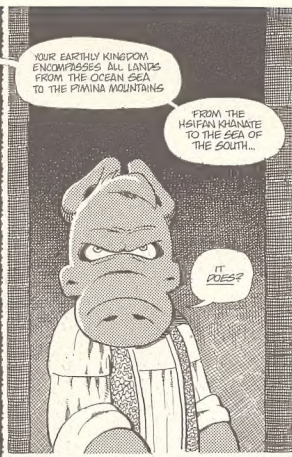
audacious
teracity
teracious
audacity



SAY
WHAT?



ALL COUNTRIES AND PROTECTORATES
OF THE BLASPHEMOUS WESTERN
CHURCH ARE BEING INSTRUCTED TO
DELIVER ALL GOLD IN COIN FORM
TO YOUR OMNISCIENCE ON PAIN
OF ETERNAL DAMNATION...



YOUR EARTHLY KINGDOM
ENCOMPASSES ALL LANDS
FROM THE OCEAN SEA
TO THE PININA MOUNTAINS

FROM THE
HSIFAN KHANATE
TO THE SEA OF
THE SOUTH...

IT
DOES?



SPEAK, MOST HOLY--
SET YOUR FAITHLESS
WESTERN SERVANTS
A TASK.

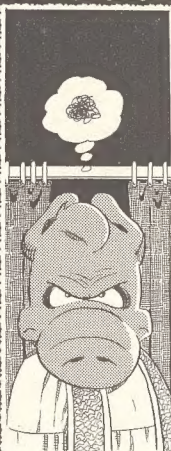
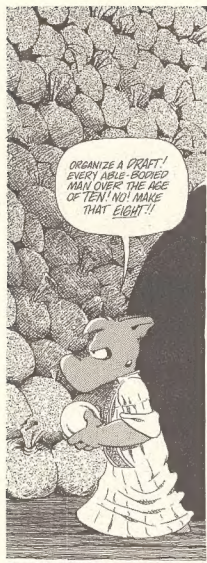
AND IT SHALL
BE DONE IN
YOUR NAME.

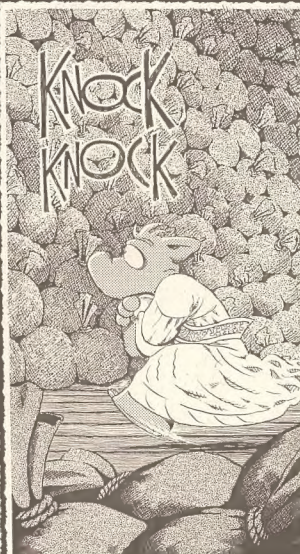
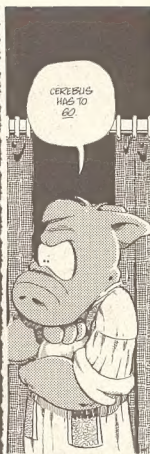
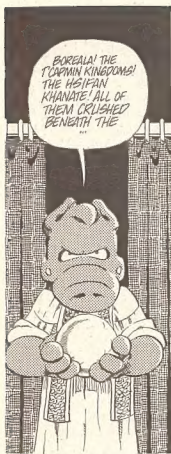


CONQUEST.



I HAD A
PREMONITION
HE WAS GOING
TO SAY THAT.









YOU 'SAID A MOUT'FUL
DERE, BRUPPER...SEE
Y'RIGHT HAND? HERE==
YOU IS HOLDIN' D'SOONARD
O' RIGHTEOUSNESS

AN' IN YOUAH LEFT HAND
OVAH HERE, YOU IS HOLDIN'
D'WHIP OF Y'MOCKY AN'
Y'BENEVOLENCE



AN' OVAH HERE
IS ALL D' DEAD
MUGS WOT GOT
IN Y'WAY, SEE?



DEM LIGHTNEEN BOLTS AN'
D' DARK CLOUDS 'N' STUFF
REPRESENTS D' POWER D'
TARIM AN' HOW IT KEEPS
YOUSE SAFE FROM HARM.



D'CHICKEE WIT' D'
BIG WOO-WOO'S
INNA SEE-T'ROUGH
TOWEL REPRESENTS
YOWAH VICT'RY OVAH
CIRINISM...



SKTCH

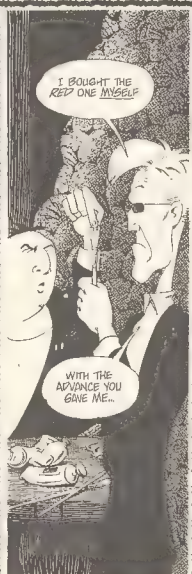


D' BIG
WOO-WOO'S
WUZ MOY
IDEA.



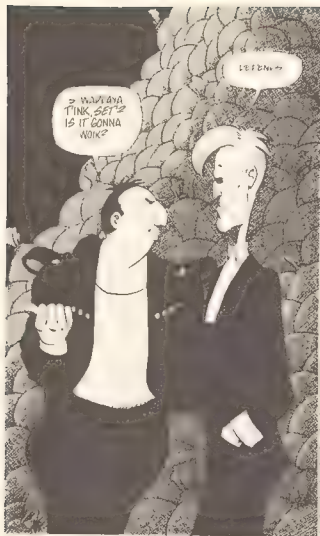












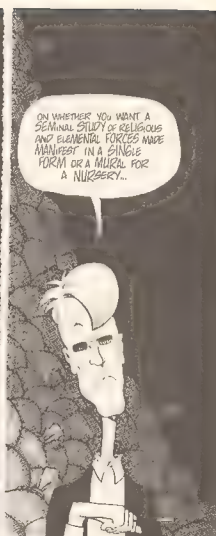
WANT A TINK SET? IS IT GONNA WORK?

LET ME...



DEPENDS

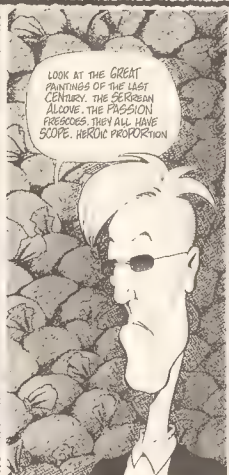
DEPENDS ON WHAT...



ON WHETHER YOU WANT A SEMINAL STUDY OF RELIGIOUS AND ELEMENTAL FORCES MADE MANIFEST IN A SINGLE FORM OR A MURAL FOR A NURSERY...

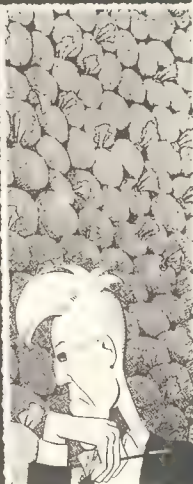


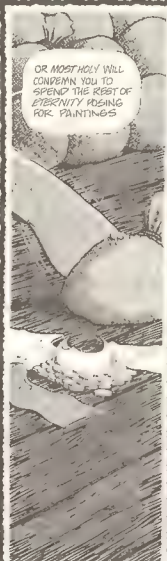
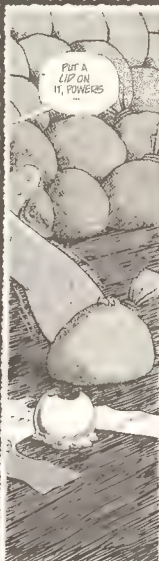
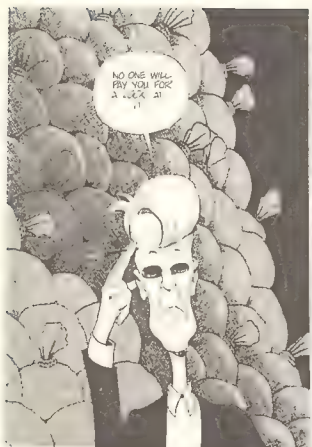
HANK?



LOOK AT THE GREAT PAINTINGS OF THE LAST CENTURY. THE GERBEN ALCOVE. THE PASSION PRESQUES. THEY ALL HAVE SCOPE. HEROIC PROPORTION











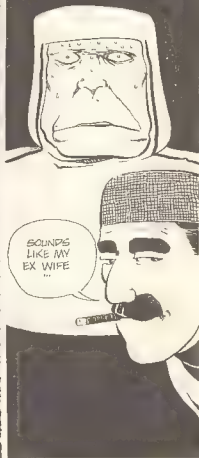
LOOK WHAT
THEY DID
TO CEREBUS'
GOLD SPHERE!



MOST
HOLY!



DESPITE THE PERIL
TO MY IMMORTAL
SOUL I DO FEEL
THAT I MUST WARN
YOU THAT IF YOU DO
NOT PASS JUDGEMENT
AND SENTENCE UPON
THE ASSASSIN OF THE
LION OF SEEREA IN
THE NEXT DAY OR SO
THAT THERE IS NO
GUARANTEE THAT
THE LEGIONS WILL
NOT STRIKE INTO
THE HEART OF JEST
AND DESTROY YOU.
THE PRISONER POSES
THE GREATEST OF ALL
POSSIBLE THREATS
TO YOUR BELIEFS
AND THE SECURITY
OF ALL THAT MEN OF
GOOD FAITH HOLD
SACRED...



SOUNDS
LIKE MY
EX WIFE
...



next: LIKE OLD TIMES

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

5) I keep hearing rumors that Gerhard snores. I mean, there you are at a convention, having a wild party, and all of a sudden...
GGGRRRUUEEEEEEN
NNCCHHH...GGGRRR
UUUEEEEEENNHHH!
That must really put a damper on things, doesn't it?

it?

6) Have you ever seen or heard of a band called **THE RESIDENTS**? Wouldn't they make good guest stars in **CEREBUS**?

7) And finally, just for the record, my girlfriend is not a rocketscientist or a neurosurgeon. She's a chemical engineer who wants to be a postal worker. I'm not kidding.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Haden Frazer
W39700 Sunnyfield Drive,
Oconomowoc, WI., 53066

1. No #300 ends with Cerebus on his death-bed.

2. I've never been invited.

3. I guess.

4. Around #115 and then we have a long love story.

5. For everyone but the girl sitting on his face.

6. Yes. No.

7. If you want me to leave the little dip alone, you're going to have to stop feeding me straight lines.

Dear Dave,

Let me begin to by saying that I like Cerebus. It is witty, imaginative, pretty well drawn, etc....

I cannot, however, condone this "Gone on Tour" bull. Dave, you know, sometimes your an asshole.

Greg McBryde
177 Lenore St.,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3G 2C4

Sometimes?

Dear Dave,

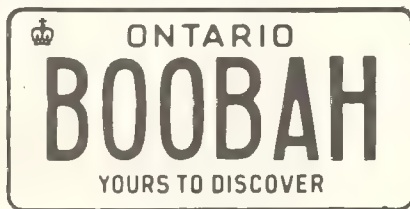
Hello there. This is my second letter to you.... the first one never was printed.

But that's okay, as I don't think I expected it to. I was going through some old letter columns and decided that I had to write again. Some fellow named Sam Lowry wrote you a dumb letter which you printed in issue #82. He is from the college that I go to, and I couldn't let you go around thinking that we Hampshire students are rotten and obnoxious. (Although, I must admit that a goodly number of us are!) So, here I am writing a basically friendly letter. The kind that smiles and says, "Hey, we like you and think you do neat stuff!"

Let me tell you a story. The other night, a friend of mine had computer room monitor duty from 4-8 p.m. This means that effectively, he missed out on dinner. (Although that is certainly no great loss.) So I said, "Hey Peter...I'll feed ya!" That idea appealed to him greatly and he came over to my room later that night for pizza. Don't

laugh, but once he arrived, I couldn't seem to say anything. I wanted to be witty, but my mind went blank. I grabbed **Swords #1** and said, "Here!" I had told him about the series and he had mentioned that he was interested, but had never read it. Well, he arrived at 9 and by midnight he had gone through **Swords #6**. "What's next", he quipped. I figured that I would scare him. I picked up **High Society** (about an inch and a half, wouldn't you say?) plus almost all the issues from 50 up to 89 (that's about 3 or 4 inches) and shoved the pile in front of him. To my horror, he did not flinch away, but snatched up **High Society**. I was panic stricken. I was too polite to tell him to leave, so how the hell was I gonna get rid of him?! Peter did not leave until 5:35 a.m., when he finished the bloody book! He would have kept going if I had not begged him to pity my poor sleepless soul! Sheesh!

I guess, in my roundabout and verbose way, I'm trying to tell you that many of us think you do good,



**BOB RITTINGER'S
LICENSE PLATE**

may, excellent work! Even when one issue does not please me as much (a rare occurrence indeed!) as others, I'm still content to sit back and wait to see what wonders will unfold. Hey, you can't be great all the time. It irritates me that some people think you should. Humph! Well, Dave, I thank you for a vast source of entertainment (And Gerhard? I could kiss you for those beautiful backgrounds!!!) and for giving me inspiration...who knows, maybe I'll come out with a comic book someday! It would be quite neat...just gotta keep drawing, writing, and hoping! Cerebus, I toast you with a goblet of Apricot Brandy!!

Mini Noyes
Box 1040,
Hampshire College
Amherst, MA., 01002

When you want to be witty and your mind goes blank, it usually means it's time to start necking. Trust me. He would've been gone by 2 a.m.

Dear Dave,

Just read Aardvark Comment in issue 90. Boyoboy, are you gonna get some heat from this un! Now I fully realize that you're doing this to make a decent living for yourself while keeping ALL rights to your creation (a stand I agree with 100%) and I just want to wish you good luck on the whole endeavor.

Why? Because I'm one of the fortunate ones that

(entropy willing) will be able to call up your number and order any product you put out that I desire.

Why the letter?

Only to tell you that I am hopeful that this move will spark tons and tons of controversy and get your letter and editorial pages just a hopping with good stuff (missed you in issue 89).

By the way, have you ever read anything by fellow (sorta) Canadian Spider Robinson? He writes something like Robert A. Heinlein (may Tarim bless his curmudgeonly old heart) but somehow more...I dunno, maybe more "humanistic?" Anyhow he's on my Recommendation of the Week list. If you like him spread the word.

In closing, best of luck with the reprint books, hope you make a potful, don't spend it all packing your nose.

Regards.

Rick L. Santman

I know. Have you seen the price of the family size Dristan? There ought to be a law.

Dear Dave,

I am a relatively young comics collector (13 years old) and just discovered Cerebus. Several months ago, I checked into my comics store, had heard of Cerebus, and flipped through an issue (#83) I said, "What the hell? I thought Cerebus was supposed to be a sword-weild-

ing barbarian! Forget this!" and left.

I went on to the other things (ie: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles) and was content, until the ads for the crossover came up. I was intrigued, thinking "Who would team up with someone who makes a boring but supposedly exciting comic?" Then TMNT #8 came, and I must say, I was impressed! The story was rotten (not your fault) but Cerebus was fantastic!

I started collecting Cerebus a month ago, and although I haven't completely figured out the current plot, I love it. Please keep going to #300 and beyond.

Although this may sound stupid, here goes. I've heard that you are nasty, conceited, etc. etc..I've also heard you are extremely nice, especially at conventions. I hope that the latter is true, because I'm rather shy and will probably meet you on November 22 (Philadelphia), and although I probably won't say much, I think Cerebus is one of the best comics on the market.

So if you see a silent little black-haired kid wanting comics signed, please strike up conversation. I would really like to find out what you're like. Thanks. I needed that.

Josh Horton
93 Woodthorsh Trail
West,
Medford, NJ., 08055

I was extremely nice to him right up to the point where I dropped him down an elevator shaft, folks.



AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

Hi Guys,

I'd like to mention that there are a number of stores purchasing High Society and selling it for 30 to 35 dollars. A number of people have written informing me of this so I'll know that I'm getting "ripped off".

Sorry, guys. As long as I'm getting my price, what someone resells them for is entirely up to them. That's a big reason that no price is printed on the books.

After our full page ad in the Toronto Star we have less than half our previous total remaining. Fourteen hundred and eight books to go out of the six thousand.

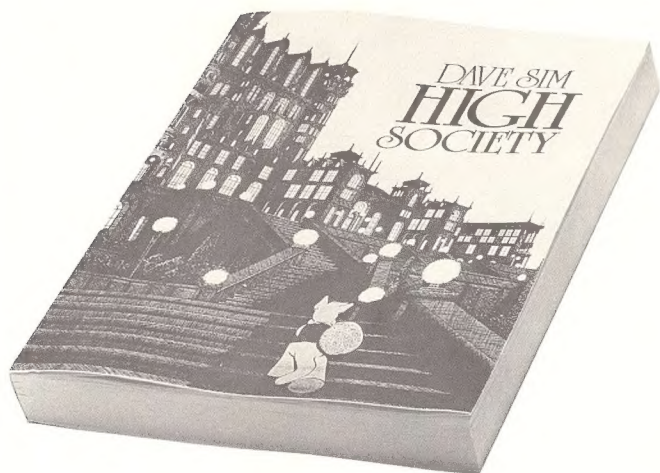
And lest we forget; the first edition, consisting of six thousand copies is being sold on a first-come first-serve basis by VISA and MASTERCARD phone order, certified cheque or money order only. Single copies are \$20.00 US and \$25.00 CDN plus \$2.00 for postage, or 1 box of 18 books for \$300.00 US and \$400.00 CDN (boxes will be shipped UPS).

Please call (519) 576-7820 or (519) 576-0610 between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Sincerely,

Dave Sim, President
Aardvark-Vanaheim, Inc.,

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2





"Look what they've done to my living room, Ma" or there's no such thing as free Eric Clapton tickets. December 4, 1986 filming the Aardvark portion of Ken Viola's "Comic Book Masters" documentary.

Photo by Gerhard